

month. any lowering of prices consequent on the opening of the season with last summer; and absence of the ext.















out a seven years' contract for the conveyance of mails to Australia for a sum of £250,000, or a ten years' contract for £350,000. The Orient Company have agreed to accept the reduced terms.

**LONDON, 21st January.**  
Decided progress is being made with negotiations for new contracts for the conveyance of mails between England and the Australian colonies.

**LONDON, 24th January.**  
A conference will be held immediately between Mr. Cecil Rhodes, the Postmaster-General, and the Agents-General of the Australian colonies in reference to the new mail service to Australia.

**THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.**  
**LONDON, 19th January.**  
Sir Samuel has been appointed a member of the building and ordnance committee connected with the Imperial Institute. The contributions from the Australian colonies towards the Institute are considered small. The Prince of Wales will probably visit the Government of the respective colonies and the Emperor of the capitals in Australia and New Zealand to organize public subscription lists in aid of the funds of the Institute.

**LONDON, 21st January.**  
Sir Francis Dillon Bell has accepted the invitation of the Prince of Wales to join the committee of the Imperial Institute.

**LONDON, 23rd January.**  
In connection with the proposed Imperial Institute sub-committee have been appointed to regulate the finances and nominate the governing body of the Institute.

**THE PROPOSED PACIFIC CABLE.**  
**LONDON, 19th January.**  
The *Admiral*, a discarded composite gunboat, formerly belonging to the British navy, but now owned by the Canadian Government, has been engaged by the Admiralty to make a survey of the Pacific from Vancouver Island to the Sandwich Islands, with a view to selecting the route for the proposed Pacific cable.

A meeting is to be held on February 1st to nominate directors for the Pacific Cable Co., which has been formed mainly to lay a wire between America and Australia.

**LONDON, 23rd January.**  
At a meeting in Dundee, last night, the Premier declared that New Zealand must cease borrowing.

**THE ADELAIDE EXHIBITION.**  
**LONDON, 22nd January.**  
Eight hundred and ninety-eight British exhibitors at the Adelaide Exhibition have been allowed 94,000 cubic feet of space inside the building, and nine exhibitors have been allotted 8,000 feet outside.

**LONDON, 23rd January.**  
Sir Herbert Sandford, British Commissioner to the Adelaide Exhibition, has been engaged by exhibitors from England to decorate the British Court.

**A TRANS-CONTINENTAL RAILWAY FOR AUSTRALIA.**  
**ADEN, 23rd January.**  
A commission has been appointed to inquire into the subject of a trans-continental railway.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.**  
**LONDON, 19th January.**  
The death is announced of Admiral Pullen, an old naval officer, who was made vice-admiral in 1880.

**LONDON, 21st January.**  
Mr. W. H. Smith will, in February, relinquish the leadership of the Conservative party in the House of Commons.

In reply to the allegations of the *Nord Deutsche Zeitung*, the French declare that the timber which they are purchasing in Alsace is required for the Exhibition of 1904.

**LONDON, 22nd January.**  
The cotton, woolen, iron and steel trades are showing signs of improvement. A remarkable industrial revival has taken place in America.

The Council of the National Rifle Association have suggested that representative teams throughout the Empire should compete for the Queen's prize at Wimbledon in the Jubilee year.

**LONDON, 23rd January.**  
A British union has been started in Manchester for the purpose of promoting an Imperial Zollverein.

The German Liberals are opposing the election of Count von Moltke to the Reichstag.

The report of the Victoria 4th cent. loan of £2,000,000 lately closed is now quoted at 1/4.

The death is announced of Sergeant Sleigh, a well-known member of the English Bar.

**LONDON, 23rd January.**  
The Liberals will probably be victorious in the general election of the Reichstag.

Sir Henry Loch, Governor of Victoria, has requested Lord Salisbury, the Lord Chancellor, to use his influence in urging the European nations to send exhibitors to the Melbourne Centennial Exhibition.

**LONDON, 23rd January.**  
The Marquis of Salisbury has promised to notify to the European Powers that an Exhibition will be held in Melbourne next year.

Commanders of French fortresses have been ordered to be at their posts early in February.

In addressing the German Landtag upon the subject of increasing armaments, Prince Bismarck declared that if the Reichstag remained obstinate against granting the demands of the Government, the Emperor William would take measures to outdistance his will.

Mr. Hamilton, M.P., has written to Mr. Balfour, Postmaster-General, disavowing his scheme for a penny postage between the United Kingdom and Australia.

**LONDON, 23rd January.**  
Sir Charles Tupper, the High Commissioner in London for the Dominion of Canada, has resigned that office, having accepted the position of Minister of Finance in the Canadian Government.

**HOW GENERAL GORDON SAVED MY LIFE.**  
A Free Lance writes in the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—Everyone has read Ouida's "Under Two Flags." I have served under five flags in my three years of military service, and two of them were the flags of the British and the Egyptian Governments. The other three were the flags of the Turkish, the Italian, and the Russian Governments. The first of these was the flag of the British Government, and it was under this flag that I served in the Sudan. The second was the flag of the Egyptian Government, and it was under this flag that I served in the Sudan. The third was the flag of the Turkish Government, and it was under this flag that I served in the Sudan. The fourth was the flag of the Italian Government, and it was under this flag that I served in the Sudan. The fifth was the flag of the Russian Government, and it was under this flag that I served in the Sudan.

**HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.**  
(From Hongkong & Co's Barometer.)  
Barometer—59.5  
Thermometer—61.5  
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**NEWS FOR THE FRENCH MAIL.**  
**LATE TELEGRAMS.**  
**LONDON, 14th February.**  
The report of the arrival of the French troops from Algeria is now denied.

It is reported that the Vatican is sending to Peking a convention assuring the complete liberty and security of Catholics in China.

It is reported that a treaty has been concluded between China and Germany.

**LONDON, 16th February.**  
The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, said that Sir H. Drummond Wolff had been engaged in delicate negotiations, but that the withdrawal of the mission was not intended.

**LONDON, 16th February.**  
Lord Balfour has been appointed Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

**LONDON, 17th February.**  
A bill and two constables have been shot at each other in a lane in Clara, and the assassin has escaped so far.

The Earl of Oxford, and not Lord Balfour, has been appointed Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

**LONDON, 18th February.**  
The House of Commons has voted the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne after a long debate.

The German Ambassador in Turkey has informed the British Legation that in case of failure in their negotiations a Russian expedition to Bulgaria with the consent of Austria and Germany is imminent.

Major Sir George Curme Strahan, R.A., is dead.

**CRICKET.**  
**HONGKONG & SHANGHAI PAST AND PRESENT.**  
A most enjoyable and well-contested match between the Hongkong and Shanghai Cricket Ground on Saturday, the 19th inst., resulting in a victory for Hongkong by 52 runs.

England was the toss and sent in Baker and Murray. The latter fell a victim almost at once to Wilson. E. J. Coxon was the next to appear, and, as expected, a stand was made. The last innings was played by a hard and close hitting without giving a chance. The best stand was made when Robertson and Dawson got together, both batsmen feeling the bowlers alike, though Dawson was eventually out.

Travers for 33 and Robertson following soon afterwards, followed by Dawson for a capital innings of 43. Yetch contributed a most useful 27, and the innings closed for a formidable total of 173.

For 27 runs, Wilson for 64, and Smith for 45. Hongkong commenced with a rather against them. G. S. Coxon and Travers appeared to face the two left-handers.

The left-handers were both bowled by the Hongkong bowlers, and together with the mainline followed, and put together 17, when he ran himself out for 63. Wilson and Dawson failed to trouble the score as yet another century was made by Dawson.

Hongkong's innings was a very successful one, and the Hongkong bowlers were well supported by Travers for 33 and Robertson following soon afterwards, followed by Dawson for a capital innings of 43.

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**THE MATCH FOR THE LAW TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP.**  
The final tie in the Match for the Law Tennis Championship was played off on Wednesday afternoon at the Hongkong Cricket Ground, Hongkong, in presence of a large number of spectators. The champions were well matched, but Coxon was the victor, having won the match by 6 to 4.

The match was a very close one, and the Hongkong players were well supported by the spectators.

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for the schools, picked up the ball from some poor passing, and got in with it. Again the ball was passed to him. After the kick-off the ball was taken well into the school's quarters, but soon came back, and when near the Club goal line Bingham smartly got another kick-off, and the ball was taken well into the Club back, got in between the posts. There ought to have been a goal kicked this time, as the touch down was in excellent position, but the attempt just failed. No further scoring beyond a goal by the Club in self defence, took place from then until time was called, though Jackson once nearly got in for the Club. When time was called, the ball was at the centre of the ground, and the Club were getting into better form. The game thus ended in a victory for the Public Schools by three tries to nil. The teams were composed as follows:—

**Public Schools.**  
R. K. Brown, (Goalkeeper) back.  
H. S. Thompson, (Captain) back.  
H. S. Thompson, (Captain) back.  
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H. S. Thompson, (Captain) back.

**Club.**  
R. K. Brown, (Goalkeeper) back.  
H. S. Thompson, (Captain) back.  
H. S. Thompson, (Captain) back.  
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H. S. Thompson, (Captain) back.

**REVENUE ACCOUNT.**  
To cost of labour, material, and working expenses at the 30th 3 months ending 31st Dec. 1896. £71,000.00  
To interest. 1,518.00  
To local expenses. 1,518.00  
To office expenses, stationery, telegrams, and petty cash at head office. 16,424.00  
To profit. £84,060.00

**By shareholders for paid up Capital.** £1,262,000.00  
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